

CARS CARRIER

Charleston Amateur Radio Society

September 2020 Newsletter

CARS Web Site --- <http://www.wa4usn.org>

CARS generally meets the second Monday of each month at the Golden Corral near Tanger Mall.

Our next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM, Monday, September 14, 2020 at the Golden Corral near the Tanger Mall and via radio on the repeaters.

AUGUST MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

From the New President

I want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence in me. I just hope I don't mess up. The position has had some excellent leaders like Bryce, K4LXF, Greg KI4TVA, and Eugene AB4UG. These hams have set the bar high.

First order of business is continuing the Club's dual meeting format, in person at the Golden Corral and on the air for COVID safety. The system needs a small amount of fine tuning but it will work and can keep the club's activities open to ALL club members. Thanks to Vice President Tom AJ4UQ for the idea and making it work.

Second, the club will be enjoying its 50 year anniversary in 2021 and a major milestone that all members past and present can be very proud of the part they contributed to the Charleston Amateur Radio Society.

Third, we the club members need to be more active in club sponsored events and operating days/ events. I will volunteer to open the club room on the Yorktown on the third Saturday of the month from 1300 till no one wishes to stay.

Please stay flexible, we have good and difficult times ahead, COVID will be cured, public service like the Isle of Palms Connector Run, South

Carolina Bike Rides, Boy Scouts and Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will still need Hams. New opportunities will need support and innovative thinking.

Lastly, use your skill sets to improve others. I have asked Tom AJ4UQ to hold classes on the Yorktown Club Room to teach digital modes of communications like PSK-31, RTTY, etc. I have asked Tom to teach from the beginnings, equipment needed, how to install and set-up equipment and computers and programs and conventions so you can get on the air and sound like an old timer at it.

Stay tuned for more from me and hopefully benefit the club membership.

Until next time,
73 Rick, N8BKN

P.S. DUES ARE DUE. Contact Lee Miller, KI4LLJ

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Now that the new CARS officers have been voted in, I'd like to say thank you for letting me be club president for the past few years. It's been a fun experience and I've enjoyed my time as club president. Once I'm finished with my PhD work at the end of the year and have free time once again, I'm looking forward to doing more work on the CARS 50th anniversary archives, events, and activities as well as getting back on the air. If you've

got any CARS related material or stories to share, let me know!

73, Eugene/AB4UG

NEWS FROM THE VP

We've had our first storm for the season, and in a sign of how crazy 2020 has been, it barely generated a buzz with people. I'm not sure if it's complacency or weariness; maybe people are just realizing that they're a little tougher and better prepared than before.

The state emergency management teams are re-thinking how to communicate during an incident. If you've listened to the recent exercises on the repeaters, you've probably noticed that voice is not the best method for conveying structured lists of information. So if you haven't looked into it yet, now is the time to consider exploring digital (computer to computer) communications. I've been asked to give some introductions at the club station, as Rick notes above.

You can explore digital modes without any special equipment (or even a radio) by using the web-based software-defined radios (WebSDR) across the world. Find a station at www.websdr.org, then use a "virtual audio cable" program to link your web browser audio to software like FLdigi to decode data. There are YouTube videos and other instructions out there if you can't wait for the CARS sessions.

73, Tom/AJ4UQ.

MEMBERSHIP

Although we had 20 folks at the meeting August 10th (which did allow for proper social distancing) I only managed to collect dues for 5 people. I guess if you consider the fact that 7 of those attending were guests, 5 out of 10 members paying up isn't that bad (plus the fact that at least 3 of the remaining 5 had already paid up). Wow that means we did great.

Folks have been feeding my mailbox regularly since my email and the newsletter so we are progressing with our dues coming in and thanks to those folks who are mailing in their dues as that saves me from having to send them a letter telling them they need to send me a check (which they already know), so they can send me a letter with a check so I can send them a letter with their card and receipt.

So keep them cards and letters coming in (with checks). If you bring your dues to the meeting in September please realize that just like in August I will have a box to put your check or cash in (with a well attached note saying who it's from) and will process that collection after letting it set for 48 hours (a COVID thing) so you won't get your receipt or card at the meeting. As soon as I process the monies and update the database and write the receipts and print out the mailing labels and membership cards I will send them out to you. Stay safe and protect others. Wear your masks (mouth and nose) and practice good social distancing when possible.

We had 4 new members voted in in August and have three more for second reading and voting in September. Hope to see some of you September 12th at the Corral.

Lee Miller KI4LLJ,
CARS Membership Committee Chairman

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - SEPTEMBER

Hurricane season is ramping up again. Josephine and Kyle have come and gone so next up is Laura and Marco. Charleston area has been lucky with little to no damage from storms A thru K storms, keep up to date on the Atlantic Basin as I write this there are two (2) invests (96 & 98) with a third ready to come off of Africa Hurricane season peaks around September 15 and ends 30 November. Now is the time to check your gear, batteries, lights, vehicles, food storage, power options, etc., etc.

Make your plans on evacuating or hunkering down now because of COVID shelter space in Charleston County is at less than 700 occupants for the whole county. COVID safety protocols also dictate only 1 Ham operator at a time in the EOC or

shelter. Shift change will mean securing from the net, sanitizing the station, leaving the area, new shift enters area rejoins the net. So for a limited time communications will be unavailable. I believe overflow (>700) will be bused to Berkeley and Dorchester Counties initially. I am asking for Ham's to volunteer to assist Berkeley and Dorchester at shelters where Charleston County residents will be sheltered. Another location for ARES members especially will be Hospitals as a staged back-up for any communications issues arising. South Carolina Tactical Communications Plan will split the SCHEART repeaters out. VHF will be for tactical communications between EOCs and State EOC. UHF will be for Medical communications.

If you have extra equipment; HTs, battery packs, antenna, etc., think about storing them in a Dry Bag/Box in case you have to move during the event. Wet radios might not work well.

Finally, now is the time to check your routes and to know where alternate shelters are located in case you have to go to a shelter or you have to move should your assigned shelter get compromised.

Until next month,
73, Rick, N8BKN

JULY FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Balance – 6/30/20	\$8166.39
Cash Receipts - July:	
Dues	407.00
Memberships	140.00
Total Receipts	547.00
Cash Disbursements - July:	
Domain Renewal	(18.85)
Bank Fee	(5.00)
Total Disbursements	<u>(23.85)</u>
Ending Checking Balance – 7/31/20	\$8689.54

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Checking Account Balance - August 1, 2019			\$6,935.96
Revenues			
Memberships	320.00		
Dues	3,597.00		
ARRL Drawing	426.00		
Membership Dues & ARRL Drawing		4,343.00	
Bank Error on Deposit		0.02	
Total			4,343.02
Expenses			
ARRL (memberships)		(316.00)	
Misc. expenses (printing, stamps, bank charges, etc.)		(228.41)	
Christmas Party		(349.00)	
Pinckney Carter Co.-Gen Liability Insurance		(288.00)	
US Postmaster-12 mos. PO Box rental #70341		(118.00)	
Memorials & Flowers for members		(655.20)	
Field day food and gas		(500.00)	
Website hosting		(115.98)	
Domain Name Renewal - W4USN.org - 1 year		(18.85)	
Total			(2,589.44)
Ending Checking Account Balance – July 31, 2020			\$ 8,689.54
Net Increase for Year	\$ 1,753.58		
Savings Account Balance	\$ 27.39		

Charlotte, KJ4PLX

MINUTES of the AUGUST HYBRID MEETING

Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

The monthly Club Meeting was held at the
Golden Corral at
4968 Centre Pointe Dr. in
North Charleston 29418
Monday August 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES:

The Charleston Amateur Radio Society, Inc. Meeting was called to order by Rick Valentine, N8BKN at Golden Corral and Vice-President Tom Glaab, AJ4UQ, on the linked repeater system at 7:00 PM on Monday August 10, 2020, at the Golden Corral in North Charleston, SC. Tom started taking check-ins around 6:45 PM.

Introductions:

Only about 19 members and guests attended at the live meeting, and 25 members and 1 guest checked in on-line.

Secretary's Minutes:

Warren, KK4EVI
The June/July meeting notes were reviewed and approved

Treasurer's Report:

Charlotte, KJ4PLX
The May/June financial notes were reviewed and approved

Museum Ships on the air:

Tom, AJ4UQ + Jim, KW4UL
No report

Field Day:

Tom, AJ4UQ + Del, KW4XQ
Everything went well, waiting on the total score. Already making plans for next year.

Races:

- Doug, KU4OC + Tom K4WJC
- October 3rd is the IOP Connector Run, as of tonight it was still on. Looking for interested Hams to help out.
- October 16, 17, 18 Bike Ride. Would like 3 – 4 Hams to help out. Contact K4WJC for more information

Hamfest Report:

Steve, KE4THX
No report

Repeater Report:

Bryce K4LXF –

Nothing to report

Membership: Lee, KI4LLJ & Jeanette, KO4BPH, It's time to pay yearly Dues for 2021 year. Due to COVID problem, Lee request you mail your dues to him.

Applications for regular membership:

First Reading:

- P. Whaly Baynard N4000
- Johnny Calhoun Jr. KO4EKZ
- Michael LM Jordan K3ZMD

Second Reading:

- Richard Wysocki K1JOP
- Henry Ravenel Jr WA4UD
- James Southard Jr W4OOM
- Andrew Berlin AB4IC

Second reading applicants were voted on and with no objections were accepted into the Club. Due to COVID-19, virtual clapping was allowed.

Emergency Prep:

Charleston: Rick, N8BKN – ARES Team meets on 3rd Saturday of the month

ARES meeting to be held August 15th at the Old Fire Station (where Club trailer is kept) at 0900 AM.

EOC's are starting to open

Looks like hurricane season is starting to pick-up. Make sure you have needed supplies

Dorchester: Beverly, W3BRB – Meets on 2nd Saturday of the month, at the EOC.

Berkeley: Linda KJ4EVV - Meet on last Saturday of the month. Their website w4brk

Nets:

Newcomers Net 2 Mtrs gets on the air on Thursdays at 8:00 PM. **If you are interested in trying to conduct a net, send Don KK4WWV, a note and he will get you the information. Mike KM4LDM and Tom, WW1TA,** are helping Don by becoming the Newcomers Net, Net Controller occasionally.

ARES Net 2 Mtrs airs on Sunday at 8:00 PM. Local area 5 meets from 8:00 - 8:20 PM, then joins up to the statewide link up at 8:20 PM. Repeaters are now linking so no need to switch frequencies.

SKYWARN Net 2 Mtrs Still meeting on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 9:00 PM on linked repeater systems. Will probably change to every Tuesday at 9:00 PM during hurricane season or severe weather.

SCHEART Net: 2 Mtrs will start Net every Thursday morning at 9:00 AM on state linked system

LowCountry Digital Net Tom, AJ4UQ, mentioned the net on 2 Mtrs (145.700 MHz) meets on Sundays at 8:30 PM and Wednesdays at 8:00 PM using Contestia 64/1000.

Newsletter / Cars Carrier: Michelle, KK4WQO

Website: Tom, AJ4UQ

No report

Education & VE Testing: Connie, NR4CB - October 10th, will be regular test session at Tall Pines Baptist church at 9:00 AM. Contact Connie, nr4cb.ve@gmail.com, by email to register

If you wish to join the new Laurel VE team, contact Connie at nr4cb.ve@gmail.com

School Programs: Alene, KG4NKD – K4DMS - No report

School Clubs: Tom, AJ4UQ – K4PSA- No report

Communications Trailer: Willie, WB4SOG: No report

Old Business:

Nominees for Club Officers:

- Pres – Rick, N8BKN
- Secretary – Warren, KK4EVI
- Vice Pres – Tom, AJ4UQ
- Treasurer – Charlotte, KJ4PLX

New Business:

Nominated Club Officers were voted on and approved.

Announcements:

Lee requested \$110.00 for mailing and supplies – voted on and approved

A motion was made to re-designate two honorary Club Members, Dr. Jim Boner N2ZZ and Charlie Miller AE4UX both were voted on and approved

Drawing:

No drawing this month for a one-year ARRL membership

Being no further business, at 7:30 PM a motion was made, seconded and passed to close the meeting and return the repeaters back to normal usage

We had an interesting Meeting in August. Rick, N8BKN and I went to the Golden Corral around 4:30, to see if we were going to be allowed to use the room and what kind of restrictions were going to be put on us. When we talked with management, we were told that we could not rearrange the tables or chairs and we could enter through the door near the ice machine but had to exit through the other door. That really didn't present any problem. When we examined the way the tables were set-up, we counted chairs for about 60 people. I can't remember ever needing more than 40 to 45 chairs. Something new: when you got your plate, you were also handed a plastic glove. They didn't want you to touch the serving spoons with bare hands. Each time you got a new plate, you got a new glove. Rick and I also put out four bottles of Hand Sanitizer for anyone that wanted to clean their hands. The staff even gave us a box, to put used gloves and paper towels in. In talking with the staff, they were happy to see us come back. Hopefully we'll have more people show up for the September Meeting. If you like to get a little ice-cream for desert, you had to ask for it and spoons were in individual wrappers.

On a second note, we actually conducted two meetings; Rick conducted the meeting at Golden Corral and Tom conducted a Meeting on the linked repeaters. We had 13 people check in from the Golden Corral and Tom had 21 members and 1 guest check in on line. Seemed to work very well.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, KK4EVI

BOY SCOUTS JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

I am with the Boy Scouts and we are planning a district campout at Camp Moultrie that happens to coincide with Jamboree on the Air weekend. All the attendees will be 9-11 years old, expecting about 50 youth and about that many more adults. I am wondering if you know anyone, who might be able to set up a radio station that Saturday (Oct. 17). We were thinking of making the event communications themed. Kids normally visit stations in rotations and we would like for JOTA to be a station so that all youth visit at least once during the day. Any chance of getting operators that day?

Thanks,
Donna Lynes
Webeloree Chairperson

TESTING YOUR RADIO VIA REPEATER

At certain times we are not able to get a radio check from a fellow HAM. The following test can assist you from becoming frustrated.

If you press the DTMF keys in a sequence, you can get feedback from the controller.

Key your mic and identify yourself and then press the number 3 twice (33) and un-key. The repeater should come back with the date and time.

Key your mic and identify yourself and then press the number 4 twice (44) and un-key. The repeater should come back and say something like "ready to record". Key your mic and say a sentence or two and un-key. The repeater should repeat your messages back to you and you should hear what you really sound like.

Key your mic and identify yourself and then press the number 5 twice (55) and un-key. Now when you press any DTMF key(s) the repeater will tell you what keys you pressed.

This information only goes through the repeater you are tuned to, not over the linked system.

Steven Geldenhuys – KG4ULR

FROM THE EDITOR

Don't forget to send me any articles, write ups, pictures with descriptions, or other helpful information you think needs to be included in the CARS Carrier. Send it to mantooml@gmail.com

73,
Michelle, KK4WQO

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